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Environment Department lifts “BOIL WATER ORDER” for Vallecitos Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has advised the Vallecitos Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) to lift a “boil water order” for its water system.

The Vallecitos MDWCA serves approximately 96 consumers in Rio Arriba County, located approximately 45 miles northwest of the City of Española. The Association’s water system was put on a “boil water advisory” on May 18, 2005, due to a Treatment Technique Violation for exceeding acceptable turbidity levels.

Monitoring results for the month of June 2005 have indicated acceptable turbidity and chlorine residual levels throughout the distribution system.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection (chlorine residuals) and provide a medium for microbial growth. High turbidity levels may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. If water is inadequately treated, microbiological contaminants in the water may cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, and any associated headaches and fatigue.

The New Mexico Department of Health has also been notified and will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. Consumers of the water system may call (505) 827-0006, if they have any water-related health concerns.

For more information contact Mike Huber, DWB-DII Manager, at (505) 827-7536 x.1009 or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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